

Uzbek-Swiss JV Starts Gas Extraction At Severny Nishan

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Gissarneftegaz, an Uzbek-Swiss joint venture set up by Zeromax and Uzbekneftegaz, has recently started to produce natural gas at the Severny Nishan deposit located within the Bukhara-Khiva oil-and-gas-bearing region of Uzbekistan.

It was announced by Ulmaskamal Abdazimov, the first deputy director-general of the joint venture. “At the moment, some 1.5 million c. m. of natural gas is extracted at the deposit a day. In a month, when the construction of new boreholes is completed, the daily extraction volume is expected to amount to 3 million c. m.”- he said.

According to Mr. Abdazimov, a 33-km gas main from the Severny Nishan deposit to the Shurtanneftegaz Gas Refinery has been built and put into operation.

In addition, he has said that “in the near future, a new construction project will be launched under which a 42-km gas pipeline will be placed to link the Severny Nishan deposit with the Shurtanneftegaz enterprise”.

Gas extraction at the Severny Guzar deposit is expected to start at the early April. When reached a full rated capacity, it will produce 430 million c. m. of gas and 30,000 tons of gas condensate. As far as the Severny Nishan deposit is concerned, its rated capacity stands at some 2 billion c. m. of natural gas.

Gissarneftegaz JV was established in 2005 by Switzerland's Zeromax GmbH on a par with Shurtanneftegaz (incorporated in the National Holding Company Uzbekneftegaz), with the purpose of carrying out reconnaissance within the Tagam - Shimoliy area of the Gissar region and developing gas-condensate deposits of Severny Nishan, Kamashi, Beshkent, Severny Guzar and Shakarbulak in the Bukhara-Khiva region.

When all these deposits reach their rated capacity, Gissarneftegaz JV will produce up to 3 billion c. m. of gas a year. Overall, the company plans to extract some 30 billion c. m. of natural gas, 1 million tons of gas condensate and 500,000 tons of oil.

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